

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 25, 26, 33, 34, 56, 77, 96 and 97 are pending. Claims 51, 53, 74, 75, and 76, formerly withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to non-elected subject matter, have now been canceled.

Claims 1, 25, 26, and 77 have been amended to specify that the copolymer recited in these claims “forms a microphase-separated structure.” Support for these amendments can be found throughout the original specification as filed, *e.g.*, at page 60, lines 10-14. Thus, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim 56 has been amended to specify that “block chain C11 includes arbitrary components.” Support for this amendment can be found in the original specification as filed at page 75, lines 8-11. Thus, no new matter is added by these amendments.

All amendments herein are made without prejudice or disclaimer as to all deleted subject matter. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue all deleted subject matter in one or more divisional and/or continuation application.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. According to the Examiner, claim 56 is indefinite because the preamble of the claim recites block chain “C11” but the claim itself contains no limitation defining block chain “C11.”

In response, the Applicants have amended claim 56 to specify that block chain C11 includes arbitrary components. Support for this amendment can be found in the original specification as filed at page 75, lines 8-9, which describes block chain C11: “[B]lock chain C11 represents a block chain having arbitrary components.” Thus, claim 56 as amended satisfies the requirement of paragraph 2 of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 9, 10, 25, 26, 33, 34, 56, 77, 96 and 97 are rejected as allegedly anticipated by JP 11-240998 to Konno et al. ("Konno"). According to the Examiner, Konno discloses each and every limitation of the rejected claims.

In response, without conceding the validity of the Examiner's rejection, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 25, 26, and 77 to specify that the copolymer recited in these claims "forms a microphase-separated structure." Konno does not disclose a composition for a polymer solid electrolyte comprising a copolymer having repeating units represented by Formula (I) and repeating units represented by Formula (II), plus an electrolyte salt, wherein the copolymer forms a microphase-separated structure. Thus, Konno does not disclose each and every limitation of claims 1, 25, 26, and 77 and Konno therefore cannot anticipate these claims.

Claims 9 and 10 ultimately depend from claim 1. Claims 33 and 34 ultimately depend from claim 25. And, claims 96 and 97 ultimately depend from claim 26. A dependent claim includes all the limitations of the claim from which it depends (and further limits the claim). Thus, because Konno does not anticipate claim 1, claim 25, or claim 26, it cannot anticipate the claims that depend from claims 1, 25, or 26, namely dependent claims 9, 10, 33, 34, 96 and 97.

Claim 56 recites an "electrode-activating compound." Konno does not disclose electrode-activating compounds. Therefore, Konno does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 56, and thus cannot anticipate claim 56.

Thus, claims 1, 9, 10, 25, 26, 33, 34, 56, 77, 96 and 97 are novel over Konno, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes there are further issues that could be advance by an interview or entry of an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,

By /Mitchell Bernstein/ Reg. No. 46,550 for
Andrew K. Holmes
Registration No.: 51,813
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 770
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008-0770
(212) 527-7700
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant